

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Japan on 12/17/02. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a copy of the certified copy of the 2002-365101 application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Response to Amendment

2. The amendments to Claims 1, 35 in the submission filed 7/29/08 are acknowledged and accepted.
3. The cancellation of Claims 2-7, 9-10, 12-13, 15-34, 36-39 in the submission filed 7/29/08 is acknowledged and accepted.
4. The amendments to the specification of the disclosure in the submission filed 7/29/08 are acknowledged and accepted. In view of these amendments, the objections to the specification in Section 6 of the Office Action dated 5/9/08 are respectfully withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

5. In view of the amendments made to the claims above, the rejections in Section 8-11 of the Office Action dated 5/9/08 are respectfully withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1, 8, 11, 14, 35 are allowed.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

7. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1, line 13, at the end of the line, after "said light dispersion", change "fitter" to --filter--.

Claim 35, line 13, at the beginning of the line, change "fitter" to --filter--.

8. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 is allowable over the cited art of record for at least the reason that the cited art of record fails to teach or reasonably suggest a light dispersion filter, as generally set forth in Claim 1, the filter including, in combination with the features recited in Claim 1, a reflective mirror for completely reflecting light, said reflective mirror being disposed at a location at which the value of a product of a distance to a light exit plane and the refractive index of a material between said exit plane and said reflective mirror is one-half of a product of the refractive index and thickness of said optically transparent layer, wherein the reflectivity is highest on a partially reflective layer disposed near the center

of said light dispersion filter in a direction of thickness of said light dispersion filter, and the reflectivities of the respective partially reflective layers are gradually lower toward both end faces of said light dispersion filter. Claims 8, 11, and 14 are dependent on Claim 1, and hence are allowable for at least the same reasons Claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 35 is allowable over the cited art of record for at least the reason that the cited art of record fails to teach or reasonably suggest a light dispersion measuring device, as generally set forth in Claim 35, the device including, in combination with the features recited in Claim 35, a light dispersion filter wherein the reflectivity is highest on a partially reflective layer disposed near the center of said light dispersion filter in a direction of thickness of said light dispersion filter, and the reflectivities of the respective partially reflective layers are gradually lower toward both end faces of said light dispersion filter; a first light receiver for generating an electric signal corresponding to the optical signal which has passed through said light dispersion filter; a second light receiver for generating an electric signal corresponding to another optical signal branched by said optical demultiplexer; and a signal differential circuit for generating a difference between the signals generated from said first light receiver and said second light receiver.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arnel C. Lavarias whose telephone number is 571-272-2315. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10:00 AM - 6:30 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephone B. Allen can be reached on 571-272-2434. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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10/6/08

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